

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1.-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) Packaging for a bandage with a peripheral edge and a patient-contacting surface with an absorbent layer and an adhesive, comprising:

first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage and peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained between the removable sheets until use; and wherein one of sheets is in direct contact with the adhesive on the patient-contacting surface until that sheet is removed.

12. (New) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of paper.

13. (New) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of foil.

14. (New) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of plastic.

15. (New) The packaging of claim 11, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

16. (New) A bandage construction, comprising:  
a bandage portion having a patient-contacting front surface with an adhesive, a back surface and a peripheral edge; and

a packaging portion including first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage, and wherein the first and second removable sheets are peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained between the removable sheets until use.

17. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of paper.

18. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of foil.

19. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of plastic.

20. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

21. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are peripherally joined with an adhesive.

22. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the bandage portion further includes: a flexible backing layer; and an absorbent layer bonded to the flexible backing layer.

23. (New) The bandage construction of claim 22, wherein the flexible backing layer extends beyond the absorbent layer and includes a patient-contacting adhesive.

24. (New) The bandage construction of claim 22, further including a non-stick layer covering the absorbent layer.

25. (New) The bandage construction of claim 22, wherein the flexible backing layer is fluid-impermeable.

26. (New) The bandage construction of claim 22, wherein the adhesive is disposed on flexible backing layer and surrounds the absorbent layer to form an island-type bandage portion.

27. (New) A method of applying a bandage, comprising the steps of:  
providing the bandage construction of claim 16;  
removing one of the first and second removable sheets to expose the patient-contacting front surface;  
applying the bandage portion to a recipient using the adhesive; and  
removing the other removable sheet from the back surface of the bandage portion.

28. (New) A bandage construction, consisting essentially of:  
a bandage portion with a patient-contacting surface including an absorbent layer and an adhesive; and  
two removable packaging sheets, one on either side of the bandage portion, such that one of the sheets acts as a release layer to expose the adhesive for use.